

**Safe and Sound Bromsgrove  
December 2017**

**North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership  
Chair – Sue Hanley**

Christmas Greetings to our readers! With the festivities in full swing, the North Worcestershire Community Partnership would like to encourage householders to step up their home security and ensure that Christmas doesn't lose its sparkle.

Unfortunately, not everyone is filled with the feelings of good will to all people at this time of year and burglars are as busy as ever, looking for ways to steal property. With houses full of Christmas gifts and easily sold valuables, this means rich pickings.

Please help us to keep North Worcestershire a low crime area by following these festive tips:

After the big day, don't be tempted to leave empty present boxes outside until your recycling collection day. The boxes and wrappings provide burglars with just the information they are looking for - what new gadgets and items await them inside.

Please consider property marking all new electrical gifts and other valuables, such as mobile phones, MP3 players, bicycles, cameras and laptops and register them for free on the Immobilise website at <http://www.immobilise.com>. Further information about property marking can be found on our website [www.nwscp.org](http://www.nwscp.org).

During the festive period, people are likely to be spending more time away from home, whether shopping or visiting friends and relations. When you leave your house, be sure to lock all your doors and windows - in 30% of all burglaries thieves don't even have to break in!

If you go out visiting, or know that you will not be home until after it has gone dark, please leave the radio on and use a timer switch to make the lights come on so that it looks like someone is at home. Don't let a dark, unoccupied house tempt the opportunist burglar.

If you still have the energy to visit the January Sales, take care of wallets and be aware of purse dippers. Keep handbags securely fastened and other valuables out of sight - in closed pockets if possible. Please remember not to leave purses or bags unattended on a trolley, pushchair or wheelchair, even for a few seconds.

We would like to wish all our readers a very Happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

You can also follow us on Twitter @saferbromsgrove